

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080584 TOSEC 030049

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 1057 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE LAGOS LILONGWE LONDON MAPUTO NAIROBI PRETORIA CAPE TOWN
USUN NEW YORK MAR 29

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1057

EXDIS

NAIROBI AND LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: PATRIOTIC FRONT POSITION ON THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN PROPOSALS

REF: LUSAKA 1043

1. DURING THE COURSE OF VISITS TO ZAPU REFUGEE
CAMPS, JOSHUA NKOMO DESCRIBED TO CONGRESSMAN
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SOLARZ AND EMBASSY OFFICER HIS CONCEPT OF AN
AGREEMENT UNDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRHQOSAL.
NKOMO EXPRESSED GREAT DISTRUST OF BRITISH
ADMINISTRATION OF INTERIM PERIOD. THEREFORE, IN ORDER THAT
THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER BE RESTRAINED FROM ANY ACTION WHICH
MIGHT PERMIT HIM TO INFLUENCE THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION,
AN INFLUENCE WHICH NKOMO BELIEVES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO HIS

INTEREST, THE RC'S POWERS MUST BE SHARPLY LIMITED. NKOMO SEES THE RC AS ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. THAT COUNCIL WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS BUT IT WOULD HAVE PATRIOTIC FRONT MAJORITY.

2. DURING A DISCUSSION IN THE AFTERNOON WHICH SOLARZ AND I HAD WITH MARK CHONA, THE CONGRESSMAN NOTED TO CHONA THAT NKOMO'S POSITION APPEARED STILL TO BE IN FUNDAMENTAL OPPOSITION TO THE CONCEPT OF THE AAP WHICH PROVIDED FOR NETURAL BRITISH ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD. HE DESCRIBED NKOMO'S CONCEPT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AS GIVEN TO HIM THAT MORNING. CHONA'S RESPONSE WAS THAT ONE COULD NOT EXPECT THE PF TO GIVE AWAY ITS BARGAINING POSITION AHEAD OF TIME. NKOMO WAS JUST DESCRIBING TO THE CONGRESSMAN HIS MAXIMUM POSITION. CHONA ENVISAGED MALTA II AS A BARGAINING SESSION IN WHICH THE PF AND UK/US WOULD WORK OUT A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THEIR TWO POSITIONS.

3. COMMENT: FROM THE ABOVE AND SOLARZ' CONVERSATION WITH MOGWE REPORTED REFTTEL, AS WELL AS FROM OUR EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PF, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A FURTHER ENCOUNTER WITH THEM AT A MALTA II CONFERENCE WILL AT LEAST START OFF WITH THE TWO POSITIONS STILL FAR APART. COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN TERMS OF THE NUMBERS OF SEATS ASSIGNED AND ITS POWERS WILL NOT BE THE ONLY AREA OF DIFFERENCE. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RC AND MILITARY FORCES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE CAN BOTH BE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPECTED TO RAISE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. IT SEEMS AT LEAST UNCERTAIN THAT THE PF WILL BACK DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN THESE AREAS FROM THE POSITIONS IT HAS HELD IN SPITE OF ASSURANCES FROM THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS.

4. IN EFFECT, WE ARE BEING PLACED IN A SQUEEZE BETWEEN THE FRONTLINE AND THE PF. WE MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE FRONTLINE TO BRING ABOUT A BARGAINING FRAMEWORK ON THE PROMISE BY THE FRONTLINE OF A MORE REASONABLE POSITION FROM THE PF, THEN FIND THAT THE PF HAS NOT MOVED AS FAR AS WE ARE LED TO BELIEVE. THE OBVIOUS WAY OF AVOIDING THIS SITUATION IS TO SEE THAT THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE PROMISES TO US--THE FRONTLINE--ARE PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS SO THAT WE CAN PRESS THEM TO DELIVER. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IN ANY MALTA II DISCUSSION WE SHOULD AGREE AHEAD OF TIME WITH THE BRITISH THAT THERE WILL BE FRONTLINE PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSIONS AT A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL TO BE ABLE TO HOLD IT ACCOUNTABLE. LOW. UNQUOTE COOPER

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